

Express News Gardening Tasks

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- For winter color use pansy and viola transplants in full sun gardens or containers along with snapdragons, stocks, dianthus, calendulas, and petunias. In the shade plant cyclamen and primula.
- The leaves from many deciduous trees such as Texas red oak, cedar elm, Arizona ash, Chinese pistache, and sycamore are dropping or will start dropping soon. Instead of raking them up to discard let them decompose on the lawn or use them for mulch and in the compost pile. For faster decomposition, run the lawn mower over them.
- Skunks, racoons, opossums, squirrels and other wildlife are seeking winter shelter now. Check for and block any entries under the house or into the attic. Enlist the help of a pest control firm if you need assistance.
- Spinach transplants can be successfully planted after mid-November for harvest all winter and into spring. Harvest the foliage of each plant a few leaves at a time to maintain production. Spinach is not as bountiful as kale, collards-, mustard, or chard so plant at least 8 plants to meet a small family's needs. One plant every 18 inches works well.